This Week in History

March 21st to 27th

Hungary, 21.03.2022, 06:46 Time

USPA NEWS - The Beatles' first appearance, Niagera Falls runs out of water, Elvis Presley joins the army, 705 British bombers attack Essen, Germany, and Typhoid Mary is re-quarantined. These events and more happened this week in history.

March 21

- (1844) The original date predicted by William Miller of Massachusetts for the return of Christ and the end of the world.
- (1935) Persia is officially renamed Iran.
- (1943) Assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler fails.
- (1945) During WWII, Allied bombers begin four day raid over Germany.
- (1961) Beatles' first appearance at the Cavern Club in Liverpool.
- (1963) Alcatraz prison in San Francisco Bay is closed.
- (1984) Soviet sub crashes into USS aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk off Japan.
- (2006) First ever tweet sent out by Twitter founder Jack Dorsey "just setting up my twttr."
- (2013) The European Space Agency reveals new data that indicates that the universe is 13.82 billion years old.
- (2019) A huge blast from a chemical factory in Chenjagang Chemical Industry Park in eastern China is so big it registers as an earthquake, kills 78 people and injures 617.

March 22

- (1349) Townspeople of Fulda, Germany massacre Jews, blaming them for the Black Death.
- (1794) Congress bans US vessels from supplying slaves to other countries.
- (1903) Niagera Falls runs out of water because of a drought.
- (1944) Six hundred 8th Air Force bombers attack Berlin.
- (1946) First US rocket to leave the Earth's atmosphere.
- (1960) First patent for lasers granted to Arthur Schawlow and Charles Townes.
- (1965) US confirms its troops used chemical warfare against the Vietcong.
- (1997) Comet Hale-Bopp closest approach to Earth (1.315 AU)
- (2017) Tomb of Jesus reopens after restoration in Jerusalem.
- (2018) The "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" between Hawaii and California has 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic and increasing rapidly, according to new research.

March 23

- (1775) Patrick Henry proclaims "Give me liberty or give me death" in speech in favor of Virginian troops joining US Revolutionary war.
- (1839) First recorded use of "OK" (oll korrect) in the Boston Morning Post.
- (1882) The Edmunds Act (Edmunds Anti-Polygamy Act) is adopted by the US to suppress polygamy. 1300 men are later imprisoned under the act.
- (1903) The Wright brothers first file for a patent for a flying machine.
- (1929) First telephone installed at the President's desk under the Hoover administration at the White House.
- (1933) Enabling Act: German Reichstag grants Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers.
- (1945) Battle of Okinawa: US Navy ships bomb the Japanese island of Okinawa in preparation for the Allied invasion. It would become the largest battle of the Pacific War in World War II.
- (1989) Two Utah scientists claim they have produced fusion at room temperature.
- (2003) In Nasiriyah, Iraq, 11 soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company as well as 18 US Marines are killed during the first major conflict of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- (2021) Cargo ship Ever Given gets stuck in the Suez Canal, Egypt, a 400m megaship it completely blocks the shipping canal.

March 24

(1882) German scientist, Robert Koch, discovers and describes the tubercle bacillus which causes tuberculosis (Mycobacterium tuberculosis), and establishes germ theory.

- (1883) First telephone call between New York and Chicago.
- (1942) US government begins moving native-born citizens with Japanese ancestry into detention centers under Executive Order 9066, with intention of preventing home-grown espionage.
- (1945) Operation Varsity: In the largest one-day airborne operation of all time, British, US and Canadian paratroopers land east of the Rhine in northern Germany.
- (1955) First seagoing oil drill rig place in service.
- (1958) Elvis Presley joins the US Army.
- (1989) Exxon tanker Valdez spills 10.8 million gallons of crude oil in Prince William Sound, near Tatitlek, Alaska.
- (1999) Kosovo War: NATO commences air bombardment against Yugoslavia, marking the first time NATO has attacked a sovereign country.
- (1999) "The Matrix" film written and directed by The Wachowskis, starring Keanu Reeves, Lawrence Fishburne and Carrie-Ann Moss premieres.
- (2018) America conducts its first ever drone strike against Qaeda militants in southern Libya.

March 25

- (1669) Mount Etna in Sicily erupts, destroying Nicolosi and killing 20,000 people.
- (1882) First demonstration of pancake making, held at a department store in New York City.
- (1915) First submarine disaster, a US F-4 sinks off Hawaii, killing 21.
- (1954) RCA manufactures first color television set, has 12-1/2 inch screen and costs \$1,000.
- (1960) First guided missile launched from nuclear powered sub USS Halibut.
- (1961) Sputnik 10 carries a dog into Earth orbit, and is later recovered.
- (1970) Concorde makes first supersonic flight (700 MPH/1,127 KPH).
- (1971) European council accepts Mansholt plan, laying off five million farmers.
- (2006) Capital Hill massacre: A gunman kills six people before taking his own life at a party in Seattle's Capital Hill neighborhood.
- (2018) First scheduled non-stop flight between Australia and the UK, leaves Perth for Heathrow airport in London, arrives after 17 hours.

March 26

- (127) Greek astronomer and mathematician Ptolemy begins his observations of the heavens.
- (1804) Congress orders removal of Indians east of Mississippi to Louisiana.
- (1885) First modern, legal cremation held in England at Woking, Surrey.
- (1913) Dayton, Ohio almost destroyed when Scioto, Miami and Muskingum river reach flood stage simultaneously.
- (1937) Spinach growers of Crystal City. Texas, erect statue of Popeve.
- (1944) 705 British bombers attack Essen, Germany.
- (1982) Groundbreaking in Washington, D.C. for Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
- (1995) The Shengen Treaty goes into effect.
- (2018) "The Black Panther" becomes the highest grossing superhero film in America earning \$630.9 million.
- (2020) Record number of Americans file for unemployment 3.3 million according to US Department of Labor.

March 27

- (1351) Battle of the Thirty: 30 English and 30 Breton Knights and squires square off using swords, maces, lances and daggers. It is considered one of the most chivalrous battles in history.
- (1790) The modern shoelace with an aglet patented in England by Harvey Kennedy.
- (1855) Canadian geologist Abraham Gesner patents kerosene.
- (1910) Fire during a barn-dance in Ököritófülpös, Hungary, killed 312.
- (1915) Typhoid Mary (Mary Mallon) is arrested and returned to quarantine on North Brother Island, New York after spending five years evading health authorities and causing several further outbreaks of typhoid.
- (1945) World War II: Operation Starvation, the aerial mining of Japan's ports and waterways begin.
- (1977) 583 die in aviation's worst ever disaster when two Boeing 747's collide at Tenerife airport in Spain.
- (1980) Mount St. Helens becomes active after 123 years.
- (1997) Martin Luther King's son meets James Earl Ray, his father's killer.
- (2020) \$2.2 trillion stimulus package, largest in US history, signed into law by President Donald Trump saying "I never signed anything with a "T" on it."

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Article online:

https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-20248/this-week-in-history.html

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